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GYMNASTICS NEWS

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On the Cover

Something to smile about . . . at the first USGF Training Camp, May 13 to 21 at Eugene, Oregon . . . the culmination of a dream and the beginning of a new era in U.S. gymnastics. For the entire top 20 women see Page 16 and the Center Fold pages. Staff photo by Warren Morgan, reprinted from the Eugene Register-Guard.

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From the Director's Desk . . .



By Frank L. Bane

This represents the first year in several years that we are not in the midst of preparations for a major international event. Next year is World Championships year, the following (1979) is Pan-American Games year and then 1980 is the Olympic Games once again. During this period of time we must gather our talent and make firm plans for next year's World Championships in France (October 23-29). Next year's USA Championships will probably serve as trials for the U.S.A. Team to that event.

The USGF office is looking into a number of items for use by our teams and also to be made available to the gymnastic public. This Fall we will provide, for the first time, sweaters, sweat-shirts,

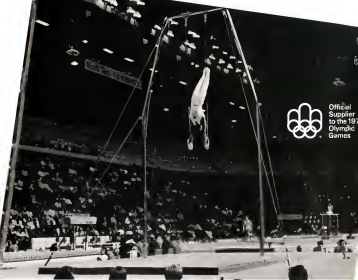
windbreakers and T-shirts with our logo on them. Again, we wish to always keep our sport before the American public and this represents another way for all of us to advertise gymnastics.

By way of announcing the size of our sport and its growth we have already made public the statement that we now have about 400,000 gymnasts in America, and the number continues to increase. Another statistic which graphically illustrates the growth of our sport is the amazing growth in our budget. We are, of course, constantly sending teams to all parts of the world. This fiscal year, which spans from September 1, 1976, through August 31, 1977, we have already spent more than one million dollars in support of our USGF gymnastics program. It is a great step in program development and a far cry from the total year's budget in our first year of some thirty-seven thousand dollars.

All in all we have experienced tremendous growth in numbers and now we must turn to the professional approach to an amateur sport that we have lacked in years past. Well-planned and conducted national training sessions for our national teams. Coaches and judges seminars in every region of the USA. The finding and assisting of talented young gymnasts regardless of their location. Seeking such things as will do in the 1977 International Congress, "open scoring" in international events such as the world games and Olympic Games. Drawing of judges (which by the way is already becoming a reality this year). The judges will be drawn 30 minutes before the FIG event begins, and then they will proceed directly to the floor to work . . . leaving little or, hopefully, no time for discussion of relative routines, etc. It is a difficult road before us but the way is clear and the talent is here. Now to the job of making it all happen. Have a great summer and see you in Memphis for the 1977 USGF Congress.



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An Analysis

USA Championships

April 21 - 23, 1977

Jackie
Fie

By Mrs. Jackie Fie, USGF WTC Chairman

This exciting event, which was first named and held in 1976, has now replaced the former Elite National Championships in the annual climatic competitive experience for USA women gymnasts.

The 1977 Regional Elite Competitions in all eight USGF Regions qualified 36 new Elite gymnasts. These top women gymnasts (less 3—J. Johnson and T. Marville due to injury, and L. Pryer, who competed in Romania at this time), plus 4 of our returning 1976 USA Championships Top Ten (K. Casey, K. Huchner, L. Wolfstberger, and L. Marino) entered the competition. All of these fine gymnasts had scored 72.00 points during the 76-77 season.

Each of these talented gymnasts performed both the 1978 World Games compulsory exercises and optional routines in all four events to determine the top 20 places for the Saturday Final Competition. It is interesting to note that the top 20 gymnasts, who qualified for the Saturday Final Competition, all averaged better than a 9.00 average with 72.150 being the 20th place score in the Preliminaries. These same top 20 again averaged over 72.00 AA or 9.0 for the combined AA Total, which was computed by taking 1/2 of the compulsory/optional total from the Prelims and adding that to the total from the Final AA Competition.

The results of Saturday's optional competition determined not only the top 6 competitors in each of the four events, but also the top 10 All Around performers, who now constitute our 1977 USA National Team.

The 1977 Championships showed tremendous improvement in our level of international performance. New elements of superior risk and new innovative compositions were executed with increased technical perfection and ultimate amplitude. A new competitive maturity and elegance of performance, apparent in even the young 15 and 14 year old gymnasts, evidenced the years of fine training and coaching. Special commendations must go to the top 10 girls and their dedicated coaches for their achievement.

We were also very fortunate to have our finest and most experienced judges, all of whom possess a certification by the International Federation of Gymnastics (FIG). Their work was of the highest quality—uniform and consistent in scoring commensurate with the actual performances rendered.

The Competition In Summary

VAULT—COMPETITION 1A

By Karen Patella, Head Judge

Judges: Sharon Weber, Sharon Valley, Sandy Thiele

The Vaults performed were generally clean in form with only minor errors in body position and direction. The twists in the pre-flight were well defined. It was obvious when the half was not achieved, but no twist was incomplete to the extreme of ending the vault.

The second phase twists tended to be lacking the timing that produces a very dynamic look, appearing slow rather than very quick. The second flight phase for most vaulters was long, but often lacked the desired height. This was due in part to staying on the horse too long, resulting in less propulsion.

The landing is becoming a lesser problem with more and more of the girls. It was exciting to see so many solidly "suck" landings.

I was very impressed with the performance of the vault at this early stage as the compulsory vault and definitely feel the USA gymnasts will be intensely competitive with the vault internationally, if they continue to progress as rapidly as they have in the past few months.

Marilyn Chapman (Dumble) showed the best vault which scored 9.55. She had clean twists, tight body form and a solid landing. Marilyn was followed closely by Denise Chabone (9.420) and Sharon Shapiro (9.340) from Gymnastics Olympics and Donna Turnbow (9.400) of the Nips.

Compulsory vaulting was definitely not the undoing of most of the girls who did not finish in the top twenty all-around. These girls scored in the 9.300 to 9.050 range, indicating the general strength of all the competitors in performing the H - H vault.

VAULT—COMPETITION 1B

The required two different vault rule and the exclusion of the easier vaults from the compulsory repertoire definitely has increased the overall quality of the vaulting event. Optional vault was exciting and very enjoyable to judge, for once!

The Tsukahara vault was the most popular with sixteen performed in back position and ten in the pike position. The

girls are showing notable precision in all phases of these vaults. Now that the on-horse position does not have to be stated, the girls can concentrate on the more important aspects of repulsion and quick rotation. The after-flights are getting longer without sacrificing height. Legs coming apart during the pre-flight was the most significant deduction in leg form, with chest and others being minor. The greatest deduction for form errors came because of lack of complete body extension before the landing, or not clearly defining the tack position. Direction continues to be a problem for some, resulting usually from poor pre-flight clarity. The majority are landing these vaults with more confidence than the twisting vaults.

The highest scoring Tsukahara during competition 1-B were achieved by Sharon Shapiro (Gymnastics Olympia) and Leslie Wolfberger (SCATS) at 9.450 followed closely by Andrea Turner (SCATS) and Lisa Marino (SCOC) at 9.400. Of these four vaults, only Leslie's was tucked, the others were piked.

The handspring with full twist was next in popularity with twenty-one performed. The range of average scores on this vault—8.350 to 9.600—is an indication of the variety of execution and technique seen for this vault.

Those receiving lower averages were deducted severely for lack of repulsion and very, early, twist with the first ¼ to ½ of the full completed while still on the horse; or an on-horse position with shoulders and head extremely out of line with the rest of the body. Several had such high pre-flight or on-horse positions they were unable to achieve the necessary height in the after-flight needed to complete the twist in time to prepare for the landing. The landings were generally insecure.

The vaults that scored high were very dynamic with quick, clean twists completed before the descent of the after-flight. The height and distance of the after-flight were combined to show a very balanced vault. Also, the landings were solid! Kathleen Casey (St. Paul Turner) once again showed her mastery of this vault scoring a 9.700 which easily could have been a 9.900 had she stuck the landing. Following closely behind were Lisa Cawthron (Texas) scoring 9.600 and Kathy Johnson (Louisiana) whose after-flight is so long she seems to have all the time in the world to finish the twist.

There were four Yamachata—full twists used, each showing high repulsion and good definition of the pike, but having trouble with the landing. Jackie Chagovoch (Utah) and Julie Gornway (Arizona Twisters) were high scorers at 9.100.

Two other vaults were used once, Kathleen Casey (St. Paul Turner) used a handspring with 1½ twists in her second vault, scoring 9.300. Her greatest deductions occurred because the twist was not complete upon landing, which also emphasized a lack of body stretch. The direction and landing also need to be improved.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the entire optional round was Lisa Cawthron's handspring-front-salto, which carried her a much deserved 9.800. Her form is excellent throughout all phases, not the "arching" form seen in many at Montreal. The repulsion she achieves is so great, she has time to completely extend with time to spare before landing. The after-flight is over 2 meters in length and the landing on this vault was solid.

Lisa Cawthron besides receiving the highest score in the meet also achieved the highest combined vault average, 9.700 for her two vaults, hand spring- and handspring-full.

UNEVEN BARS—COMPETITION 2

By Hand Judge: Karen Patolek

Judges: Sharon Weber, Sharon Valley, Sandy Thiele

It was very apparent that the overall difficulty level has increased and the amount of risk taken by the winning routines was extraordinary. Routines that were winning in previous competitions, and performed unchanged, were no longer of the highest caliber.

Multiple handstand moves were frequent and it was exciting to see so many varied diamonds, including a hecht double twist from the low bar, several toe on front salies done in either direction and salies with twists.

Clear (free) hip circles are finally being done with great amplitude, usually right up to the straight arm handstand. Also multiple clear hips are being used more.

The Stalder is becoming a part of more routines, either used as a preparation to a drop kip or as a complete circle to handstand. One gymnast included a Stalder as part of her mount.

Most of the twenty routines utilized their full swing potential. A few included eagles or ½ - ¾ in the middle of the exercise that definitely seemed to destroy the previous rhythmical pattern and looked out of place considering the great difficulty of the rest of the routine.

Falls during the bar routine proved the undoing of several, preventing them from scoring high in the all-around as they had done in previous championships.

UNEVEN BARS

By Debra Dunn, Hand Judge

Judges: Gretz Treiber, Linda Chocinski, Shirley Rohlfman

COMPETITION—1A

Much improvement was seen in the performance of the compulsory routines. The greatest improvement was shown in the casts prior to the underswing shoot one-half turn, and the dismount. There was significant improvement in the amplitude on the shoot prior to the one-half turn. Everyone seemed to have a better understanding of the dismount in terms of technique, thus fewer deductions occurred on this particular part of the exercise. Not all of the gymnasts showed improvement in these areas, but many did which was very good to see. Several were showing world class performances, and by next year many more will be at that same level. Outstanding uneven bar compulsories were shown by Leila Russo - 9.55, Deana Turnbow - 9.50, Marilyn Chapman - 9.40 and Jackie Chagovoch - 9.40.

COMPETITION—1B

Optional uneven bar routines were exciting and of very high quality. Several of the girls had very high risk routines with few mistakes. A few had major errors on very difficult movements, but still managed to perform good routines. Only a few had somewhat weak routines performed with only minor mistakes. The very best optional performances

(Continued on Next Page)

the bus would depart at 3:00 p.m." With the help of Asia and the support of the Germans, British, and Canadians, I was able to convince the meet director to depart at 2:15. After arriving at the competition site, we were told that we could not warm up on the competition equipment. Absurd!! Right? Right!! So again we acted. We moved onto the floor and began to warm up. The meet director immediately insisted that we leave the floor which we did only after being promised sufficient warm up time before the competition on the competition equipment. Y-Y Victory!!

And then the competition. Our men vaulted first; in fact, Mike was the first vaulter of the entire competition—Piked Tsukahara, 8.95. Ron did an excellent layed out Tsukahara, 9.40. These were lower scores than the vaults deserved, but we expected that. Our plan: Don't worry about the scores, just don't mess!! Both Ron and Mike functioned quite well within this philosophy, and, as the competition progressed, I felt that our performances were better received. Note the chart of scores:

	FX	PH	R	V	PB	HB	Total
Wilson	9.35	9.10	8.60	8.95	8.85	8.90	53.85
Gallimore	9.35	8.35	8.00	9.40	8.70	8.50	52.70

The above all around results placed Ron 12th and Mike 9th. It was really great to see an American gymnast on the awards stand in the all around. Of special note here was the fact that on floor exercise Ron had amazed everyone, including me, by attempting to dismount with a full twisting double back. He landed very low on both hands and feet, but it must go down as the first or at least one of the first times a gymnast had attempted such a feat. Later that evening at dinner we were surprised and extremely pleased to hear that Mike had qualified for the finals in three events—Floor Exercise—tie for third, Pommel horse—4th, Parallel bars—5th—Ron qualified on Floor Exercise—tie for 3rd and Vaulting—1st. Mike was also an alternate on Horizontal bar. Unfortunately we had to scratch Ron from the finals because his ankles were badly swollen from his floor exercise dismount. On Saturday the girls competed; hence, we had a day off rest and some time to mentally prepare for the finals—We wanted a medal!!

Sunday came, and we were ready. Mike looked very good in the warm ups. *Floor Exercise*—Mike had some minor difficulties (extra step in piroettes, step on dismount, etc.) but managed a 9.15 for 4th place. *Pommel Horse*—He was missing one C for competition 1st and got shaky near the end but no major breaks: . . . 8.55 for 6th place. *Parallel Bars*—Mike put together a very nice routine here . . . 9.15 for 2nd place, a silver medal. Finally the American flag on

The women . . .



Andra Turner, above, with fellow gymnast, Leslie Wolffberger, and their coach, Scott Crouse, represented the USA in the women's division of the Golden Sands meet, June 8 - 13, in Varna, Bulgaria. (Story not available.)

the awards stand—As Newt Loken would say, "GREAT GREAT GREAT!!!"

All in all, I felt that we competed very successfully. Mike Wilson, in his first international competition, performed very well with no major breaks in nine routines. He was explosive as always and gave an all out performance in most cases. Ron Gallimore amazed everyone with his tumbling and vaulting abilities. Numerous times I was asked, "Why not a triple back on floor?" Both of these young men did all that they could to make sure that the USA did not go unrepresented. ☞

GOLDENSANDS ALL-AROUND FINAL RESULTS

Rank	Name	Country	FX	PH	R	V	PB	HB	Total
1.	Roland Bruckner	RDA	9.60	9.40	9.00	9.30	9.25	9.15	55.70
2.	O. Banguev	BUL	9.15	9.30	9.00	8.95	9.15	9.30	54.85
3.	A. Karanov	BUL	9.45	9.15	8.80	9.25	9.10	9.05	54.80
4.	Bernad Jeasch	RDA	9.10	9.00	8.95	9.35	8.65	9.10	54.15
5.	Jan Neale	ECR	9.20	8.95	8.50	9.20	8.95	9.20	54.10
6.	Mike Wilson	USA	9.35	9.10	8.60	8.95	8.95	8.90	53.85
7.	Gabriel Popescu	ROM	8.85	8.70	8.90	9.20	8.80	8.90	53.35
8.	Warren Long	CAN	9.05	8.60	8.60	9.30	8.80	8.90	53.25
9.	B. Koldovski	TCH	9.30	8.45	8.60	9.15	8.80	8.95	53.25
10.	Paul Forcinius	SUI	8.65	8.60	8.90	9.10	8.60	8.65	52.10
11.	Jergen Geiger	RFA	9.10	8.25	8.40	9.20	8.85	9.00	52.80
12.	Ron Gallimore	USA	9.35	8.35	8.00	9.40	8.70	8.50	52.70

Antibes, France, Invitational

By Jim Fontaine

The American delegation of gymnast Donna Turnbull and her coach, Jim Fontaine, departed Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 7, to participate in the "6th Tournoi Mondial Feminin de Gymnastique" in Antibes, France.

After traveling for 20 hours we were met at the airport in Nice, France, by Christian Soler, a French gymnastics coach. We then traveled by motor car to our hotel in Antibes, about 20 minutes away.

We rented the entire day of Wednesday, June 8. On Thursday we were given a sightseeing tour of the local French Riviera and spent part of the day in a small village on the top of a hill, Saint Paul. Saint Paul is residence of many famous French artists and movie stars, including Brigitte Bardot.

In the afternoon, Donna trained in the competition facility. She was the only gymnast to train at that time. When we returned to the hotel, our roommates had all arrived. Donna was to room with the two English girls Susan Dando and Lisa Jackmann. I roomed with the English coach Bunay Warren. We were quite pleased to have some one to talk to. In the evening we had a very informal reception and met all the other delegations. We never did find out why Romania and Yugoslavia failed to show up.

After the reception the coaches, judges and other officials were taken on a bus sightseeing tour of the French Riviera coast with a short stop at Monte Carlo. I doubt if there is a more beautiful coastline in the world.

The day of the competition was ours to do as we wished. Some countries trained, but most just relaxed around the hotel. Donna and I joined the English group and wandered around the local beach and shops.

Warm-up for the competitors began at 7:30 p.m. with competition starting at 9:30 p.m. The Friday meet determined All-Around and the top 8 on each event to compete on Saturday for the individual events. The entire meet was extremely well organized and run by the meet director, Pierre Brecheard.

The opening ceremonies were very impressive with the flags and each country marching in as a separate group by spot light. The crowd was fantastic, very knowledgeable and enthusiastic.

The competition was of very high calibre with 2 double back on floor, many tucked and piked Tsukaharas in vault, aerials and back flips and double twisting dismounts on beam. Overall, the weakest event was bars with only Kracker showing originality and risk. She does a free hip with a full twist, Korbut back flip on high bar, and Nedo's bar dismount from one leg and in a piked position.

The All-Around was won by Inna Mitrofanova from USSR. She has a high piked Tsukahara and handspring



Scott Berrington Photo Donna Turnbull

front on vault, high aerials and back tuck on beam, excellent swing and free hip on bars and a double back on floor. She is about 5' tall, thin and very flexible and strong. An excellent all around gymnast with no real weak event.

Second All-Around was a tie between Lydia Gorbik from USSR and Seffi Kracker from GDR. Gorbik is a well experienced veteran with a fantastic floor routine done to 2000 Space

Odyssey with full orchestra—very impressive performance. She is somewhat weak on vault and bars, but fantastic on beam and floor. Now at 18 she is very beautiful and mature in her gymnastic performance.

Seffi Kracker is another veteran gymnast who has really improved since the Chungchi Cup in November, 1974. Her vaulting includes excellent piked Tsukahara and handspring front, aerial and back tuck, double swing dismount from beam, mounts and dismounts with a double twist on floor.

Fourth place All-Around was Yana Cerna from Czechoslovakia. She is in the mold of Filatova and Davidova, is looking 10, very small. She was by far the most exciting gymnast of the meet. She competes handspring front in vaulting, flip flop back tuck flip on beam, back splat on bars, double back on floor. She has no twists on floor and her double back is done in a straddle tuck position.

The American entry, Donna Turnbull, placed fifth in All-Around and third on vault and floor. She was not really up to par as compared to her earlier competitions. Her vaulting was about normal, beam above normal, bars and floor below normal for her. In Finals, vaulting was very good, she fell off beam on a turn and was off balance on the back tuck. Her floor in finals was excellent, particularly compared to the previous evening, but her score went down.

In the All-Around competition the gymnasts were divided into four groups, with four events competing with one gymnast performing at a time, the events rotating in international order. In the finals there was only one event at a time. The first night there were two judges per event and in final there were 4 judges per event. The judges panel consisted of 6 French judges, one Italian, and one Belgian judge.

Sunday was a day given over to relaxing and sightseeing. We returned home on Monday.

(Continued on Page 24)

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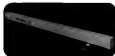
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WAREHOUSES IN U.S.A. AND CANADA

Edwards Details NHK Cup Tour

By Vassie Edwards

The N.H.K. Cup is an annual all-around men's and women's gymnastics competition held in the late spring in Hamada City, Japan. Only on very special occasions are other nations invited to send a guest competitor and this year the United States was represented by Kathy Johnson from Belcher, La., Jayne Weinstein from Eugene, Oregon, and coach and manager Vassie Edwards from Belcher, La.

The competition consisted of one compulsory and one optional round with no individual finals. The N.H.K. cups, one for men and one for women, are magnificent trophies about 36" high and are presented to the winner for one year. A year later the recipient must return to the competition with the cup and compete again for the title and the cup.

In keeping with Japanese style, the competition was immediately run with regards to time schedules and excellent apparatus. The women's competition consisted of four events run simultaneously with five gymnasts in each squad. An entire round of competition took no longer than one hour and 20 minutes.

Because this competition is usually only a national meet, and due to the oversight on the part of the women's technical chairman, Mrs. Arakawa, there was no meeting held prior to the competition between the U.S. and Japanese officials to discuss or clarify any phase of the compulsory exercises. This meeting is an international requirement. The U.S. had no representation on the judges panel and after the first competitor on the balance beam, Kathy Johnson had performed and *Aut dead cold*. I was left bewildered by the 9.25 score she received. I fully expected to see a 9.5 plus score awarded. I had already allowed a .2 deduction for being in a foreign country or for home court advantage. I



submitted a protest and received an apology from Mr. Kondo, V.P. of the F.I.G., Mr. Kadowaki, director of the competition, and from Mrs. Arakawa, women's technical director. They acknowledged the fact that no meeting was held prior to competition. However, other than words, no adjustment was made in the score.

After this event I witnessed their national champion receive a 9.7 on compulsory floor which wouldn't have broken a 9.0 in the U.S. We foresaw this problem to happen throughout the meet for both Americans. We quickly revised our goals and Kathy and Jayne set out and successfully settled in and performed the remaining seven events with determination and poise showing complete disregard for scores. They showed all the class top American gymnasts should have.

Endless are results. It is my opinion that Kathy Johnson probably was the meet by 8 to 1 full point over Okazaki; however, as reality goes she was officially awarded second place by .30 of a point. Jayne Weinstein in my opinion should have been fourth, yet she received eighth place. She performed very well for her first international competition.

Both athletes enjoyed the experience and received a great amount of international experience from the trip. They were very popular with the



Gymnasts Kathy Johnson and Jayne Weinstein, with Coach Vassie Edwards and her wife, Jane, are hosted for a night's living time during their recent NHK Cup International Meet.

Vassie and Jane Edwards, Jayne Weinstein and Kathy Johnson, on their arrival in Hamada City, Japan.

Japanese and enjoyed a lot of publicity. They received many gifts from the Japanese and were encouraged to visit again.

I would like to thank the U.S.G.F. for allowing us to make the trip and J.G.A. for their hospitality and valuable experience our athletes received.

Diary . . .

After the competition was over we were free to do some sightseeing. That evening we ate a Chinese dinner with all of the N.H.K. Broadcasting personnel. We enjoyed it very much although we used much sign language to talk. There was one man that spoke English to help. We made it clear, though, that we wouldn't eat anything raw! Afterwards we played Japanese slot machines. We all had a good time.

OPTIONAL RESULTS N.H.K. Cup, Japan, 1977

Name	Totals	Rank
S. Okazaki	75.65	1
Kathy Johnson	75.10	2
F. Hayashida	74.60	3
A. Akaba	73.80	4
S. Nozawa	73.20	5
M. Ishimura	72.80	6
Y. Matsumoto	72.30	7
Jayne Weinstein	72.65	8

We left early the next morning to go to the beach and the Sea of Japan. It was beautiful and we all relaxed. We walked the beach and took pictures. Later in the morning we left with some of the officials from the meet and they took us to a Japanese theater district. It was a very unique experience. Although it was all in Japanese we could understand by the actions. They wore very elaborate costumes and the dances were like folk dances with warriors and dragons. We met the mayor of Hamada City and they gave us gifts. That evening we saw the men's optional competition. It was very fine to see the best men in the world.

We left by bus the following morning for Hiroshima. We picked up the "Bullet Train" here for Tokyo. It goes 150 to 200 miles an hour. It was a five hour ride but we enjoyed the experience and the chance to see more of the country.

The next day we spent totally shopping in Tokyo before our flight left that night at 9:30. We shopped in the Ginza, which is a famous shopping area.

We boarded our long flight home tired but happy. It was a good trip in most respects and we all learned a great deal about the Japanese and their customs. [4]

MRC Reports

Final Trials for World Championships

San California State University at Sacramento

Director of Meet: Barbara Parker
Suggested Date: Sept. 10 (preferably) or Sept. 17.

After checking with the University, B. Parker will confirm the date with M. Zakka. Eligible to compete in these Trials are those competitors who scored over 30 pts. in the Nationals at Iowa. They are: Sue Soffel, Lydia Hira, Toby Turner, Robin Swadlow, Ellen Garbick, Ivy Kelly, Kathy Bryn, Valeria Von Heler, and Suzanne Rowman. There will be no carry-over of scores from the Nationals. Gymnasts to participate in the World Championships will be selected by the MRC Committee based on performance in the Final Trials, but not limited to that. Although no problem is anticipated, consideration will be given to such things that affect U.S. reputation and MRC development—e.g., behavior, overweight, etc. The time

1977 JR. NATIONAL AA FINALS

(Houston, Texas)

TDP IF ALL-AROUND

Place	Name	Club	AA Total
1.	Kari Lewis	Arizona Samays	74.35
2.	Gigi Ambrosio	Parlettes	74.00
3.	Rhonda Schwartz	Jets	73.65
4.	Chris Robell	Nat'l Academy (Oregon)	73.23
4.	Stacy Warth	Parlettes	73.23
6.	Lauri Carter	Nat'l Academy	72.68
7.	Melinda Tatum	Hill's Angels	72.63
7.	Susan Van Sick	Willingham	72.63
9.	Marcia Frederick	Pioneers (Mass.)	72.55
10.	Diane Doves	Hill's Angels	72.53

TEAM STANDINGS

1.	Nat'l Academy of Artistic Gymnastics, Oregon	219.90
2.	Parlettes	218.75
3.	Hill's Angels	217.30
4.	Desert Devils	214.65
5.	Pugettes	213.85
6.	Philadelphia Freedom	210.05

GYMNASTICS HALL OF FAME

CONSETTA CARICCIOLO—COMPETITOR

1933-1950 — Competitor in unsupportable American Turner Gymnastics Meets

- 1933 — National A. A. U.—All Around Gymnastic Champion
- 1933 — National A. A. U.—National Calisthenics Champion
- 1934 — National A. A. U.—All Around Gymnastic Champion
- 1934 — National A. A. U.—Parallel Bars Champion
- 1935 — National A. A. U.—Calisthenics Champion (Tie—placed)

- 1936 — Member of U. S. Women's Olympic Gymnastic Team Berlin
- High Scorer—American Team
- "Flex" Optional Parallel Bars (International Team)
- "Riff" All Around Gymnastic (International Team)

- 1937 — National A. A. U.—Calisthenics Champion
- 1938 — National A. A. U.—Side Horse Champion
- 1948 — Member U. S. Women's Olympic Gymnastic Team—London

3rd Place—All Around Team Competition
1953-1960 — Served on U.S. Women's Olympic Gymnastic Committee

- 1952 — Judge—U. S. Women's Olympic Gymnastic Team Tryouts
- 1952 — Judge—Olympic Games—Finland
- 1952 — Chairperson—Women's Olympic Gymnastic Team
- 1956 — Judge—Women's Olympic Gymnastic Team Tryouts
- 1960 — Judge—Women's Olympic Gymnastic Team Tryouts
- 1946-1960 — Instructor & Judge—American Turner, Baltimore, Inc
- 1963-1966 — Judge—Baltimore County High Schools Gymnastics Association
- 1969-1975 — Baltimore County Recreation Department Instructor, Boys & Girls Gymnastics
- Instructor, Women's Physical Fitness Program
- Substitute Physical Education Teacher in Baltimore County Elementary Schools

Kurt Thomas First American Representative in Recent Years in Romanian Competition

Submitted by
Roger Conrad
Gymnastics Coach
Indiana State University

Kurt Thomas and I departed J.F.K. airport on Monday, April 18th, as the first American representatives in a number of years to the 26th Romanian International Invitational. There was a four-hour delay in our departure, initially because of cracked windshield in the airplane, which had to be replaced and then an emergency evacuation chute on the plane, was accidentally inflated. We began our journey, hoping that those two incidents were not ominous forebodings of things to come. We traveled to Frankfurt, Germany, then Budapest, Hungary, and finally Bucharest, where all international flights to Romania arrive and depart.

We were met at the Bucharest airport by a representative of the Romanian Gymnastics Federation, Mr. Silviu Magda. We were shuttled from Bucharest by Romanian Turcom airlines to the site of the meet. We checked through customs amid a collection of personnel, and the customs authorities passed us through with dispatch.

We arrived at the city where the meet was to be held, Cluj-Napoca, which is located in the northeastern sector of Romania in the province of Transylvania. Cluj is a city of about 150,000, the fourth largest city in Romania. Upon arrival we were met at the airport by a bus which took us to our accommodations at the Hotel Napoca, where ten of the eleven teams stayed. The Romanian team stayed in a separate hotel. The competition was for both men and women, with the American girl representative being Miss Leslie Pyfer along with her coach, Mr. Dick Mulvihill, both from Eugene, Oregon.

Each country was allowed to enter either one or two teams for the men and for the women. Upon taking inventory I found that there were representatives from the following countries: Belgium, Canada, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, U.S.A., Hungary, U.S.S.R., and Ro-

mania. The meet was used by the hosts to be a "checkup" before the European championships as well as being a means to strengthen friendships in the world of gymnastics.

The site for the competition was the Sports Palace in Cluj, which was available for training every day prior to the competition. The competition, itself, spanned three days, with only optional exercises being performed. The men's preliminaries were on Friday, April 22 in the evening, the results of which also determined the all-around champion. On Saturday evening, April 23, the women's preliminaries were held, and on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. the finals for both men and women were held.

The equipment was good, and conditions for competition were, in gen-

eral, quite well, although not as flawlessly as in the American Cup. He had not been seen by many other competitors or officials prior to competition since he trained earlier in the day than most other competitors. He performed his regular routines with the exception of his high bar dismount where we decided not to do a full-out in the prelims, and substituted a double.

At the end of the preliminaries Kurt was 2.5 ahead of Dan Gercu, the Romanian Olympic veteran, and he had won the all-around title. Kurt had also qualified in all six of the events going into the finals, which consisted of the top six qualifiers. The best Romanian floor-exer, Ion Chiorescu, used a full-in for a moon and a double back for a dismount. The Russian men were represented by two fourteen-year old juniors, which I took as an insult until I saw them work. Both had doubles on the floor, and although somewhat inconsistent, worked side horse with complete body extension. One of the youngsters was doing a Magyar spindle on side horse and both had half-in,



ISU-AVC Photo

Kurt Thomas

eral, desirable. Kurt had suffered somewhat at the hands of "jet lag," but by the day of the competition, his adjustment was nearly complete. In the preliminaries, the men were arranged in three groups, with Romanians in each group. (One thing that we were not aware of until the morning the night before competition was that the Romanians had nine men entered in the competition.) Kurt went through the

half-out dismount on rings and high bar. The field, for the most part, was dominated by Kurt Thomas and the three top Romanian men, Gercu, Cepan, and Oprescu. I did not feel, however, that the Romanians were as consistent, nor were they working with as much flair as Kurt. Since he won anyway, I feel I can safely say that without it sounding like sour grapes.

(Continued on Page 28)

Prague Diary

European Championships

(Ankita Fir, WTC Chairman, Member FIG WTC, recounts the events of the week of May 9 through 14 in the Czech capital.)

PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Most delegations from the 23 participating nations arrived Monday, May 9, at training facilities for one or two sessions per day were available from that day on. Marlene Biese and I also arrived then, since FIG/WTC direction and functions were scheduled beginning at 6:30 p.m. that evening. Marlene served as my interpreter at all functions and meetings during our week in Prague.

My first meeting of the FIG/WTC was an orientation session at the Park Park Sport Hall at which time the newly designed electronic timing and scoring machines were thoroughly explained and demonstrated, so that each head judge would be able to so instruct his judging panel at the appropriate time. Other technical details and procedures for the competition and scoring were also covered.

The marker machine/scoring apparatus for each head judge was uniquely designed so that a red light would signal when each of the 4 judges had entered his mark. Only after the score of the Head Judge was entered into the machine would the 4 judges' marks become visible to the Head Judge. If the marks were within the FIG range and satisfactory with the Head Judge, another button was pushed by the secretary to flash the average score to the public.

For balance beam and floor exercise the time display also automatically flashed the appropriate under-time or over-time deduction following the exercise if the appropriate time regulations were not met.

"The gymnasts had already been drawn into 2 groups with each group resulting in a good mixture of both very good to average gymnasts . . ."

The Jury of Appeal would also have 4 such marker machines at their disposal, so that they would be at all times aware of all marks being awarded by all judges.

The Jury was composed of: 1. Mr. Yun Tazuo, President FIG; 2. Mrs. Ellen Berger, President WTC; 3. Mrs. Maria Simionescu,

Vice President WTC; 4. Mr. Max Bergerter, Secretary General FIG; 5. Mr. Stanislav Pokorný, Technical Director of the Competition.

These first 5 persons, primarily, manuevered the Jury's machines during the competition with the assistance of Mr. Radek Pospisil, Secretary WTC, who also served as the linguistic expert in communicating with the head judges and the Jury.

ON TUESDAY, MAY 10

The FIG/WTC and interpreters were taken on a morning tour of several historical and memorable Prague sites. Among these were The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Carina Palace, The Church of "Loreto," the Castle of Prague, the Town Hall and Hermitage—Sun Clock, and Charles Bridge over the Vltava River which provided another beautiful view of the Castle of Prague. Mrs. Matkuchova acted as our very well informed tour guide.

"At the close of each session, selection routines were reviewed on the video recorder including questions and comments from the groups of judges . . ."

The WTC met from 3:00 to 8:00 in the Park Hotel to discuss business pertinent to:—correspondence, contractual and national issues, protocol-matters, work plan of WTC, division of duties and responsibility of WTC, current compulsory exercises, new Technical Regulations document, European Championships, duties of the head judges, judges' assignments, and the judges' course scheduled for Wednesday.

FIG President, Mr. Tazuo attended the entire meeting.

The gymnasts had already been drawn into 2 groups with each group resulting in a good mixture of both very good to average gymnasts. The draw had taken place after April 1, 1977 with Mr. Tazuo, President; Mrs. Berger, WTC President; and Mr. Lyle, WTC President, in the presence of the news media.

Each participating federation submitted a brevied judge to work at the competition. Since 20 scores were reserved by Mr.

Bergerter, the WTC approved the assignment of 16 judges for the preliminaries with four reserves, one at each event. These four reserves were then assigned to the Finals by the WTC. Each of the reserve judges was given a responsibility at their event:

1. Vault—short technical analysis of the vaults performed.

2. Bars, beam, floor—number of medium and superior difficulties (including composition of series on the beam and floor).

A draw for judges' placement was not used since the W.T. Assembly in Montreal, 1976 voted against this and also since the majority of the WTC was not in favor of this method of placement.

JUDGES' ASSIGNMENTS
PRELIMINARIES

Vault

Head Judge: C.A. Lethbrun—Canada

1. A. Puzos—Norway

2. B. Kervin—Yugoslavia

3. B. Skovrovin—Poland

4. B. Kato—Switzerland

*Yoshida M. E. Kato, Spain

Bars

Head Judge: U. Berg—Sweden

1. G. Huber—Austria

2. S. Hironaka—East Germany

3. A. T. Prokhorov—Czechoslovakia

4. L. Looz—Holland

*Fauvel L. Dardelien, Belgium

Beam

Head Judge: J. Matkuchova—

Czechoslovakia

1. A. Bontcher—West Germany

2. M. Thibault—France

3. E. Liu—Koman

*K. L. Berg—Denmark

*Wilde P. Brown, Great Britain

Floor

Head Judge: J. Fox—USA

*M. Furi—Italy

2. E. Komar—Hungary

3. M. Anderson—Sweden

4. L. Trueman—USA

*Fauvel C. Belpaire, Portugal

Video recorder would tape the entire competition for purpose of dissemination and control. The head judges were given the authority to call conferences:

1. when 2 scores were too high and 2 scores were too low in relation to the score;

2. when, and if, the scores tended to rise from group to group in relation to the

(Continued on Next Page)

More European Championships

(Continued from Page 13)

first score of the competition, and, as if on previous failure and subsequent deduction as scored in the Code of Points was not seen and taken by the majority of judges.

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

The Judges' Course was held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Annex Hall in the Sport Palace. Mariene Bone served as the official English to German translator for the Judges' Course. Each of the head judges conducted the lecture presentation for her event and addressed her remarks to all judges present. Following the theoretical portion of the course, each panel of judges, including the reserve judges, took part in a practical review as their assigned event. The reserve gymnasts performed at least 6 routines. Each head judge thoroughly analyzed the first exercise pointing out all aspects of composition and execution and the appropriate deductions. Both the average mark and head judge's mark were announced. The same procedure was followed for the majority of the demonstrations. At the close of each session, selected routines were reviewed on the video recorder including questions and comments from the groups of judges.

None of the proposed revisions to the Code of Points was drafted for this competition, as some revisions will become effective January 1, 1978. Much of the lecture presentation and discussion emphasized the judging of composition in relation to the rapid development that has occurred. It is common knowledge that our sport has progressed to the point that it is well ahead of the present rules and regulations contained within the Code of Points. Consequently, there is a need for revised options in judging and evaluation.

"Nadia Comaneci, with a score of 39.300, triumphed to win the all-around over Elena Moukhina, the new Russian star, at 38.950."

This evening the WTC met again from 8:00-7:45 p.m. in the Park Hotel to discuss:

—the Technical Regulations, the official training scheduled for Thursday at 9:00 p.m.; judges' assignments, Code of Points proposed changes and additions, and Judges' Oath.

Mr. Lyko, WTC President, attended this session.

ON THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 12

The WTC met from 8:15 to 9:15 in the Park Hotel to finalize the changes for the Code of Points that would become effective January 1, 1978.

At 10:00 a.m. Mr. Berger and Mr. Titov presided over the meeting of the WTC, delegation leaders, coaches, and judges in the Sport Palace annex building. The most important procedures explained and clarified were:

- i. Draw for gymnast placement,
- ii. Assignment of judges for preliminaries and finals,
- iii. Number of 8 gymnasts in finals,
- iv. The schedule for the official training in the Sport Palace.

Mr. Polubotova, Technical Director of the Competition, gave details of organization for the official training and the competition. Mariene Bone again acted as the official English to-German translator.

At 3:00 p.m. all official personnel were invited to a very nice reception by the Czechoslovakian Gymnastic Federation Sport Committee at the Hotel Splendid, which served to officially open the European Championships, 1977.

The Official Training in the Park Sports Palace at 3:00 p.m. and again for the second group at 9:30 p.m. gave an opportunity for:

- i. The judges to become familiar with the scoring machines and procedures,
- ii. The gymnasts to become familiar with the equipment/apparatus, marching, and warm-up procedures,
- iii. A large audience to get a preview of the exciting competition to come.

The competition hall, which can hold a capacity crowd of 18,000, was quite full for the top-flight gymnastic demonstration, for it is not often that so many world class champions can be seen in the exhibition or competition arena.

AT 10:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, MAY 13

This evening, the all-around competition took place before a crowd of 12,000 to 13,000 people. Nadia Comaneci, with a score of 39.300, triumphed to win the all-around over Elena Moukhina, the new Russian star, at 38.950.

Nadia Kim, the lovely veteran Russian performer, placed 3rd with 38.850. (See All-Around Results.)

There was one protest during the competition and that occurred on the bars for Ungureanu's 9.650 score. The Jury of Appeal disallowed the protest.

Of the 63 competitors, 23 averaged 9.00 or better with the top 8 all-around gymnasts scoring an average of 9.51 or better in each event.

A meeting of the WTC to solidify the judges' placement for Finals was called by

the President of the WTC for 8:00 a.m. the next morning.

ON SATURDAY, MAY 14

The WTC also reviewed the film of the 1976-80 Compulsory Exercises giving final approval for its availability to the member federations.

Judges' meetings and preparations were held at 1:00 p.m. in the Sport Hall prior to the 3:00 p.m. Final Event Competitions, which was to prove both exciting and disappointing. A factual description of these events follows.

During the Final Competition on the Vault, two protests were made to the Jury of Appeal. The USSR delegation protested the score of Nadia Kim's scored vault, a Tsukahara layout, which required 9.70. (Her first vault, a Tsukahara with a full

"... the Romanian delegation protested the mark of Nadia Comaneci on her first vault at 9.75, a Tsukahara piked."

twist, was not protested at 9.75.) The Jury of Appeal corrected the score of the second vault to 9.80, the Head Judge, Mrs. Lehtinen from Canada, had awarded a 9.80.

Soon afterward, the Romanian delegation protested the mark of Nadia Comaneci on her first vault at 9.73, a Tsukahara piked. (The second vault, a Tsukahara tucked, at 9.90 was not questioned.) The Head Judge's score was 9.70; however, the Jury corrected the mark to 9.80.

This resolve gave the gold medal to Kim, since both gymnasts were tied going into the Finals.

Nadia Comaneci and Elena Moukhina went into the uneven bars Finals tied with 9.800 apiece. Nadia's exercise was, as in Montreal, excellently performed and composed with high risk and difficulty. Moukhina performed 3 very difficult and risky new moves: a full twisting back somersault (Korshak) catch HR, a full twisting clear (free) back hip circle over the HR, and a back from LR with a back take some as a dismount. Her execution was very good. Both gymnasts received the same score of 9.800 for a final mark causing a tie for 1st place with the 3rd place being won by S. Kraker from East Germany, who also received a 9.850 for her final exercise.

Comaneci's most difficult task Montreal team routine with 2 back saltes added, received the only perfect score of the competition. Immediately following the beam competition, the entire Romanian Delegation (gymnasts, officials, and coaches) left the arena to return to Bucharest that day.

(Continued on Page 26)

Despite Challenges —

Future Bright for U.S. Gymnasts

While some of the coaching and administrative gymnastics people in the United States were disappointed with the results of the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976, it has become apparent that the United States Gymnasts will not be denied. The USGF has redoubled their efforts to produce fine gymnasts thru their many programs, the latest being a Junior program of systematic training. There are now approximately one half million gymnasts in this country, and while the American Cup results were being totaled in the Garden, some of the younger gymnasts in the United States gave an exhibition and absolutely stunned the crowd with their exercises. Kurt Thomas was just named out by one of the greatest gymnasts in the world, Toshihiko of Japan and Kathy Johnson & Beena Tarnbow finished one, two and they were not even on the Olympic Team in 1976. There is a mass upheaval, hundreds of letters from all over the country are crammed with enthusiasm. There are some problems that are being studied that are known but were brought out during an interview at the recent March Clinic International in February by Joe Macaluso of the State-Times. The interview gave the athletes a chance to say what was on their mind.

Mary U.S. Olympians in the past Games have their views on support of the American athlete. It's a complicated problem and one which will not have an easy remedy but Kurt Thomas, winner of the men's competition in the March Games meet, summed up the beliefs of the U.S. representatives who participate on the world level.

"There has to be some funding for athletes. We just can't stay around on assistantships at the universities. Right now there are only scholarships to support many of the athletes and that runs out when your college days are over.

"If some sort of funding comes along, we'd become our program very up. It would help a lot of older guys like Wayne Young, who was another in the March Games field. He's on an assistantship but it just isn't enough money. Heck, he's got one child right now and another on the way.

"We need Wayne. We can't afford to lose him. He was our top all-around man at the past Olympics and if he can't get some help, then we'd lose our best competitor for the future."

Young, who was the oldest man in the March Games field at 24, was interested in his future, and he added the need for support of the athlete in a subtle manner. "A university would be wise to invest in an athlete with some sort of assistantship program just to keep him alive. Right now the colleges just don't want you after you've completed your four years and if you get out of an academic environment and have to work for a living and work out to keep your level in competition then there's no way to do that. There's just no way."

Thomas added to that with an explanation of the Canadian system for their gymnasts. "In Canada they've set up an elite program with the top 13 people getting some money plus room and board. But they have to work enough to stay in the top 12 or they are cut off. Maybe we could work on a subtle way to do this in the United States—like give us jobs where we could work and still participate."

The problem isn't confined to the male gymnasts though and Ann Carr, runner-up in the women's field, touched on the issue.

"I really think some kind of support is needed. I saw some really talented little girls come into the gym who just couldn't go any further because of money.

"We NEED support for clubs or YMCA's or something like that, but support from the government or other sources is maybe 10 years away. I may be a little pessimistic about that. Maybe it will come sooner," said the top ranking women's collegiate gymnast.

Kathleen Casey, a 17-year-old high school senior pointed her comments toward the same issue. "There's a lot of potential gymnasts whose families can't support their work which leaves only a select few who can really develop their skills and abilities and there's the gymnasts who just can't because they just don't have the money."

Bart Corner, another Olympian in the group, took a dim view of total governmental control. "If the government starts handing out the money, then it just might get too political. It just might be too much power for one group to have but it's got to happen. Right now a lot of athletes are questioning themselves whether they should train for the next four years."

Another problem, this one particular to their sport, also came to the floor in the discussion—the need for more development programs.

"Right now our problem is the lifespan of a U.S. gymnast. We compete in high school then in college. That's about seven years. The Russian and Japanese gymnasts compete from junior high years, through college years and then about seven more years. So they are the top gymnasts in the world because they compete almost twice as long as we do.

"We need to develop more age group programs and then have the gymnast compete in some sort of post-graduate program to develop our people to the fullest.

"It stands to reason that a man who competes once at long will be better in competition. Our gymnasts have a competition span of one and maybe two Olympics while the Russian and Japan gymnasts will go to two and three Olympics. We need to go from junior high all the way through to 28."

The three Olympians in the men's field last night gave a hint at a better tomorrow for their sport. They explained that with the nucleus of the five competitors who participated in the '76 Games, that the U.S. would probably finish much better in 1980 at Moscow. They further added that a position on that '80 team would be tough to come by if the nucleus of Corner, Young, and Thomas, along with Tom Betch and Peter Kornmann, stayed around that long. Kornmann was the only medal winner of that group with a bronze in floor exercise in the '76 Games. **TM**



Kurt Thomas



Ann Carr



Wayne Young



Kathleen Casey



Bart Corner

Oregon Training Camp Begins New Era For American Gymnasts

Each gymnast was accompanied by her coach. Following is an evaluation of the Oregon Training Camp, May 16-20, by Coach Fritz Reiter.

The National Team Training Camp held at the Oregon National Academy of Gymnastics was a very positive experience especially for the coaches involved. In order for a critique to be of constructive value and helpful, two ingredients must be achieved; 1st: objectivity, 2nd: if negative aspects are apparent, solutions or suggestions of improvements ought to be cited.

I will try to stay within these limits. From last day's coaches' evaluation I gather that praise will be mentioned and that it would be repetitions to put it in writing. Therefore, if it is of constructive value to mention what in my opinion could be improved on occasion of the next USGF National Team Training Camp.

1. We all appreciated the superb accommodations. However, we ought to spend the money in areas most helpful for the purpose and not for food—quantities which are not to be consumed or for the pleasure of the individual gymnasts. And what is needed most is a specially prepared training diet under the supervision of our team nutritionist (which we ought to have). This would give the gymnasts an actual experience of their specific food intake requirements. Then they can be given the task to reduce their fat content by the next training camp or less their standing on the National Team. At the moment we hear lectures that how the kids but they still get upset when they learn about their body's fat composition. They are desolate thinking that they can do little about it because most of them are already on a DIET anyhow. A well prepared and in fact actually demonstrated daily and weekly food intake table would have a vast impact on the total USA program. We have many young ladies who are very close to getting their Double Back Somersault and I venture to say that most of them would be doing them had they less body fat to carry.

2. Secondly, what in my opinion is most urgently needed among gymnasts of the United States, is the ability to perform under pressure. This could partly be improved with the help of a competent psychologist/psychiatrist being actually on location, observing, suggesting and working with the coaches, and, if need be, talking to the gymnasts. Much could be accomplished in these areas, much more than showing the kids how smart WE are and letting them learn for hours to our technical know-how after which they go home and ask their own coach anyhow to find out what to do.

For complete team picture see Center Fold . . .

3. Thirdly, if on the other hand the camp was aimed for the gymnast the workload was far too little. No time was allotted for them to find out how tired they can be and still be able to perform or what a actually feels like working to fatigue point, as was suggested in the lectures, for the improvement of the anaerobic-capacity which appears to be partly responsible for the development of speed and reflexes.

Seen from this standpoint nothing has been accomplished that will actually improve our score—the girls will continue to fall off the beam or miss a landing or become hesitant and they will continue to "almost" have a Double Back (except for one or two) because they will continue to struggle to maintain a body fat content of 12-18% instead of 3-4% as the best Europeans do.

Linda Metheny's Floor Exercise and Brian sessions on compulsories were of the highest quality and might prove the points I made above by the fact that they showed what these compulsory routines really could look like; draw-back—not enough time was allotted for this.

Patsy Weston's dance workshops fall into this category. Patsy is one of the most professional people in her area and we coaches can learn from her as much of how the teachers as the kids from *what she teaches*. Concluding—it was a step into the right direction and every long journey starts with the First Step—let's continue to walk together.

Mulvihill Comments

For the first general get-together, I felt that a lot was accomplished in bringing the youngsters together and acquainting them in both gymnastic and non-gymnastic activities. I also feel that they have begun to realize the serious aspects of the program and left with added zeal toward becoming the best possible gymnasts that they can. The two discussions by Doctor English and Doctor Davis were well worth while and I believe it is extremely important that medical records and sports medicine research begin with this group of girls. If this is to be a longitudinal, worldwide program the sports medicine aspects are extremely important and should be formalized immediately for a long range program . . . regarding both training and selection of gymnasts.

Again, the dance aspects as directed by Patsy were excellent and with added modern and jazz instruction this part of the program should be very valuable. If possible, even more time could be spent in this area . . . perhaps as much as four hours per day.

I would like to see more input by all of the coaches into the training aspects of the program prior to the training camps. There should be more definition as to what is going to be done and exactly when. The training program should be well defined and carried out.

All in all I believe we have a good start, however somewhat late as we have a lot of catching up to do.

The weakest areas are still vaulting and bars and we have to move a lot faster with our drills, interchange of ideas and such than we have so far. I strongly feel that we still are not on the right track so far as vaulting is concerned and that we need some outside help in this area.

COACHING STAFF:

Scott Crowe
 Vannie Edwards, Coordinator
 Jim Gault
 Tom Jones
 Linda Metheny
 Dick Mulvihill
 Patsy Wester



Brown Elected— Hall of Fame

MARGARET C. BROWN, Ed.D., L.L.D.
[see.]—NOTEWORTHY
CONTRIBUTOR

Dr. Margaret C. Brown is Professor Emerita of Poncey College of Physical Education and Hygiene which merged with Montclair State College in 1958. A graduate of the McMill School of Physical Education, she received bachelor's and master's degrees from Rutgers University, the doctorate in the administration of higher education from New York University, and honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Montclair State College. She taught in public schools, in the New Jersey teacher-training summer schools of the 1920's, served as professor of Education and president of Poncey College until 1958 and then as executive secretary and archivist for the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Widely known for her innovations in teacher education, Dr. Brown's achievements have been professionally recognized with many awards including the honor award of the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, the honor award of the Eastern District of the AAHPER, and Nominally, both the William G. Anderson Award and the honor award of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. She is the author of a number of professional articles and research studies, and co-author of a recent book on movement education published by Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts.

Over the years, Dr. Brown has held offices in many professional and civic organizations. She is past president of both the New Jersey Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and of the New Jersey Association of Colleges and Universities. As administrator, educator, writer and speaker, she has given many addresses and lecture demonstrations for professional and community groups. She is presently a member of the Mayor's Council on Senior Citizens, a member of the board of trustees of the Senior Citizens Housing Association and Corporation of East Orange, and the East Orange Bicentennial Executive Committee. On the international scene, Dr. Brown served as an official with the United States Women's Olympic Gymnastic team at the Olympic Games in Berlin, London and Helsinki, and represented the AAHP at the World Gymnastic Championships in Prague in 1938. In addition, she represented the NJAHPER at Congresses of the International Association for Physical Education and Sports for Girls and Women in Washington, Oslo, and Tokyo. ■■

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1. DONNA TURNBOW

Bellflower, Ca.
Kips, Santa Fe Springs, Ca.
Coach: Jim Fountaine
Age: 15

2. KATHY JOHNSON

Belcher, La.
Olympia Training Center
Coach: Varnie Edwards
Age: 17

3. LISA CAWTHRON

Arlington, Texas
Arlington Gymnastics Club
Coach: Bill Valentine
Age: 15

4. DENISE CHESHIRE

Barbark, Ca.
Gymnastics Olympica,
Van Nuys, Ca.
Coach: Fritz Reiter
Age: 16

5. LESLIE WOLFSBERGER

Westminster, Ca.
SCATS
Coach: Scott Crouse
Age: 17

6. ANDRA TURNER

Westminster, Ca.
SCATS
Coach: Scott Crouse
Age: 15

7. SHARON SHAPIRO

Asleta, Ca.
Gymnastics Olympica,
Van Nuys, Ca.
Coach: Fritz Reiter
Age: 15

8. GONNA KEMP

Westminster, Ca.
SCATS
Coach: Scott Crouse
Age: 15

9. LESLIE RUSSO

Durham, Conn.
Southern Connecticut Gym Club,
New Haven, Conn.
Coaches: Muriel Grossfeld
Don Peters
Age: 14

10. SHARI SMITH

Long Beach, Ca.
Kips, Santa Fe Springs, Ca.
Coach: Jim Fountaine
Age: 17

First Training Camp's To



Wouldn't you be smiling, too! Gathered together for a team picture are the top 10 girls who participated in America's first intensive team training program for girls on this May at Eugene, Oregon. USGF conducted these 20th for the United States 1980 Olympic Team, and the training camp for the celebration of a dream and the beginning of an intensive developmental program planned for even further expansion in future years. The 10 team members of the USA Championships and the 10 National Junior Team gymnasts include, (bottom



o 20—Moscow Bound??



ron, left to right, Leslie Wallbarger, Donna Kemp, and Leslie Rouse. Second row, hands on bars, Colleen Michaels, Andrea Turner, Kelly McCoy, Christi Robell, Kevin Barrios, Stephanie Willes. Middle group, leaning on bar, Jackie Goodlin, Donna Turnbrow, Sharon Shapiro, Leslie Pyfer, Linda Kardos, Jayne Weinstein, and Marilyn Chapman. Top row, Shari Smith, Lisa Cavallaro, Kelly Johnson, and Denise Cheekers. Staff photo by Warren Morgan, Eugene Register-Guard



WOMEN'S NATIONAL JR. TEAM

1. **MERILEYN CHAPMAN**
Diablo, Ca.
Diablo Gymnastics Club
Coach: Jim Gault
Age: 15
2. **LESLIE PYFER**
Eugene, Oregon
National Academy
Coaches: Dick Mulvihill
Linda Metheny
Age: 13
3. **STEPHANIE WILLIAMS**
Bethesda, MD
MG Gymnastics
Coaches: Margie & Greg Weiss
Age: 12
4. **KELLY MCCOY**
Kettering, Ohio
TWIGS Christian Gymnastics
Club, Mansfield, Ohio
Coach: Tom Jones
Age: 13
5. **JAYNE WEINSTEIN**
Eugene, Oregon
National Academy
Coaches: Dick Mulvihill
Linda Metheny
Age: 13
6. **CHRISTI ROBELL**
Eugene, Oregon
National Academy
Coaches: Dick Mulvihill
Linda Metheny
Age: 11
7. **KRISTI RECHLIN**
Scottsdale, AZ
Desert Devils
Coach: Stormy Eaton
Age: 12
8. **LINDA KARDOS**
East Vandalia, Pa.
Gym-Banders, Washington, Pa.
Coach: Danny Warbuton
Age: 15
9. **COLLEEN MICHAELS**
Cypress, Ca.
SCATS, Westminster, Ca.
Coach: Scott Crouse
Age: 13
10. **JACKIE CASSELLO**
South Hempstead, N.Y.
Schmaeri Gymnastic Center
Coaches: Dick & Marilyn
Schmaeri
Age: 11

MRG's Sue Soffee Breaks Magic 9.0 Barrier at the Maple Leaf

By Norma Zabka

Those of us who have followed U.S. involvement in ARHG Gymnastics as an international level over many years remember what an important time it was when a U.S. woman finally received a 9.0 score in international competition.

At this year's Maple Leaf Invitational Meet in Toronto, 16-year-old Sue Soffee of Los Angeles made history in Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics. On the first day of competition, Sue scored 9.25 in the Ball and 8.85 in the three other events (Rope, Hoop, Ribbon). During the finals, Sue improved her Ball score to 9.3 and raised her Rope to 9.0 and her Hoop to 9.05. The better scores during Finals were not the result of generally higher judgments as the number of gymnasts who improved their score was about equally distributed with those who received lower scores.

To date, the U.S.A. has been only represented internationally in two World Championships (Rotterdam, 1973 and Madrid, 1975) and two Invitational Meets (Czechoslovakia, 1974 and Canada, 1976). We therefore valued the opportunity to have Sue Soffee, Lydia Bree, and Toby Turner represent the USGF at this Maple Leaf Meet. It should be noted that only two competitors (Sue Soffee and Kathy Bryn) of those eligible for the upcoming Final Trials for World Championships previously have had international exposure. The Maple Leaf Meet provided the girls' first experience working with live accompaniment and, I believe, competing internationally will play an important motivating force for sharpening up routines. At our National Championships, at the University of Iowa, it was clear to all that our gymnasts' performances are definitely on the upswing and we look to born competition at the Final Trials, Sept. 17th, at the University of California at Sacramento and the World Championships in Basel, Switzerland, Oct. 13-16, 1977.

Back to our history making 1977

Maple Leaf Meet. Our three competitors, Sue Soffee and Lydia Bree, coached by Alla Svirsky, and Toby Turner, coached by Barbara Pancher, met with our Maple Leaf Coach, Monika Volkmann, three days prior to the official invitation date in order to work with Annette Cohen, Planner, of Sacramento. All teams were assigned to individual homes and our team was hosted by the President of the Canadian MRG Federation and newly elected member of MRG Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics Comm., Mrs. Evelyn Koop. There are advantages and disadvantages to having accommodations of this sort, but the team could not have been better U.S. representatives. While living and competing, all three girls worked cooperatively and happily. They were a delight.

On Thursday, June 9th, the Bulgarian and Czechoslovak delegations arrived. Switzerland had cancelled the trip and at the very last minute West Germany pulled out of competition as their top gymnast, Carmen Richter, suffered an injury. Canada, of course, was disappointed. They would have invited another country if they had more advance notice. For our purposes, the impact of an international experience would not have been substantially increased with two more countries. Practices were scheduled on Thursday and Friday at Strick College Sports Centre, the site of the Meet, which started at 6:30 P.M. on Friday.

During the Opening Ceremonies, greetings and welcome were extended by Jans Muller, Canada's very capable Technical Director. Following opening remarks by Evelyn Koop, a young lively group of about twenty gymnasts from the club Kalev Esirone gave an excellent and joyful group exercise demonstration without hand apparatus. The competition began with the Rope and Hoop alternating. Norma Zabka served as U.S. judge for the Rope and later the Ball and Annette Hoyman served as our judge on the Hoop and later the Ribbon. The



Norma Zabka

Bulgarian who have always excelled in Rope competition have cut back on their extremely fast rope work and relatively immobile tonic work. The body work of all competitors was much more evident. In hoop competition, innovation continues and our girls are working in the right direction. The Bulgarians continue their display of the dramatic which has subjective appeal. However, Valerina Ganeva would have improved the effect of her presentation if the strong dramatics did not accompany a proto-type hair style.

At this point, the Canadian Team deserves some attention. Although the Canadian team has shown great improvement in the last three years under the guidance of their National Coach (a full-time position), they entered this meet with less than their best due to injuries. Jans Lazor, one of Canada's representatives at our Nationals at the University of Iowa, became the Canadian Maple Leaf wonder. It appeared she could do no wrong with her rope—each time she threw, it came back with great exactness. The Canadian audience loved it and their support only made Jans perform even more brilliantly. Obviously, Jans displayed the ultimate (that a coach would want in a competitor's sport). It was her greatest performance and it will be interesting to see what this competition will mean to her for the World Championships.

In Final competition, Bulgaria's Kristina Ganeva unfortunately lost her rope in the saffers during a practice throw just before her appearance. Upset at having to see another competitor's rope, Ganeva walked off

the man after only a few moments of her routine and was disqualified. Her elimination gave Jana a chance to gain a medal, which she did. Fourth place in Rope went to Sue Soffer. In Hoop competition, Sue was fifth.

The Ball and Ribbon competition followed. The youngest competitor of the competition, 15 year old Iveta Havlickova of Czechoslovakia presented one of the most elegant and sensitive routines I have ever seen. She finished second to Kristina Ganeva by .05 whose spectacular throws and catches made her the winner. Valentina Ganeva of Bulgaria, second to Sogova at the recent pre-world modern rhythmic gymnastics championships in France, was third here, while Sue Soffer placed fourth.

Attached are All-Around results. One worked on the judging at the meet. There was no discussion at all except when Ganeva's rope was caught in the rafters. The judging work was very good with only small understandable partialities offered Canada, the host.

Following the competition, a lovely wine and cheese party was hosted by a Canadian MRG supporter. Sunday, our last full day in Toronto, came the Official Luncheon at the Wembley

Hood where presentations were given to our host, Canada. Exchanges of gifts by delegations concluded the luncheon. We then all continued as guest of the Canadian Federation to Ontario Place, a recreation island which was a nice way for our group to last be together.

All-Around Scores

1. Valentina Ganeva, Bul., 37.65; 2. Kristina Ganeva, Bul., 37.35; 3. Iveta Havlickova, Czech., 37.30; 4. Jana Lazor, Can., 36.95; 5. Anne Marie Wong, Can., 35.95; 6. Sue Soffer, U.S.A., 35.80; 7. Debbie Bryant, Can., 35.50; 8. Tracy Turner, U.S.A., 33.80; 9. Lydia Brez, U.S.A., 33.35.

I would like to mention one other especially gratifying item and that was our U.S.A. cheering section which included Mr. & Mrs. Bee of California and other enthusiasts from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and New York.

And, just one last work . . . you will be seeing many more Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics programs, participants, and competitors. It is now on the move! ■

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Beltz Wins Title At Sr. Nationals

By Debra Darel, Mary Kelyne

Joanne Beltz, Pennsylvania gymnast, emerged as the top All Around competitor in the USGF Senior Nationals May 21 and 22 in Tempe, Ariz. She was followed closely by Sandy Moschenbach, of Arizona, and Karen Malory, of California, tied for second.

One hundred eighty-two young women competed in the 1977 USGF Senior Nationals. This was a record number of competitors for this competition. The caliber of performances was of very high quality with many of the competitors looking only polishing to put them at the elite level. The degree of difficulty shown in most optional routines was outstanding. Back hand-springs alone and in combination, side and front aerials, and back somersaults were frequently seen in optional beam routines. As is often the case, staying on the beam seemed to be the competitors biggest problem. Vaulting competition was probably the most outstanding of the three events. There were several outstanding vaults of the highest difficulty. The highest scores of the competition were seen in this event.

The Desert Devil Boosters Club, Sonny Barton and his staff from the Desert Training Center are to be congratulated on a very well organized and well run competition. No gymnast was on the competition floor for more than three hours at one time which makes for a pleasant experience for the competitors. It was a tremendous competition and every young woman who competed hopefully went home feeling proud to have been there.

FLOOR EXERCISE

By Carol Liedtke, Head Judge

The constant variety of the floor exercises kept the judges alert throughout the long days of judging. From robots to classical ballet the styles were enhanced with better technique and addition of dance combinations, modern rhythmic and modern dance contractions and elements.

There was disappointment at this level in still seeing incorrect feet faults in the compulsories; not only in floor patterns, but also rhythm, hand and head placement and steps. Some more frequent problems were lack of contraction in specified parts; the mouset

lacking reputation from the hands; develop walks not showing a bent to straight leg; handstand not going through the side handstand and coming down heavy; standing up from the split section incorrect; full turn not on toe, support leg straight and free leg held too low and not back; tour jet lacking amplitude and split; dive tucks lacking amplitude.

There was still a lack of foot control, with small imbalances, ankle weakness and flat steps on connections from move to move. The file flac showed good straight body technique and extra amplitude of leg flexibility in the split positions enhanced the top routines.

In optional the tumbling lacked in progressive buildups, except for the best routines that combined four or five tricks in series. (Kevin Mabry from Double included two aerial fronts in series, roundoff file flac flip, file flac flip with full twist; roundoff file flac flip, file flac flip; and other tumbling, plus several turns and good leaps and jumps.) She received the high score of 9.5 in all-around finals. There were several double full twists but most had landing imbalances.

Unique acrobatic and modern dance parts were more prominent than the "cute" style of last year giving greater value to the composition of the routines. Music showed more variation, though each piece generally kept one major theme (such as a silent movie, popular rock song, or movie theme). Miss Cornell and others showed the torso contractions similar to Sauti, but in general this and head and facial expression were lacking. The use of pivoting on the hands and doubleturns added to several routines.

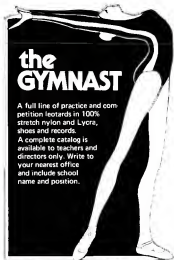
The all-around final scores ranged from 8.65-9.5 with 23 scores in the 9's showing a need for improvement still in increase in tumbling difficulty, dance combinations, and expressive dynamics. Overall the improvement from the past was evident and all were enjoyable to watch and judge.

ALL-AROUND RESULTS

1. Joanne Belts, Parkettes, 73.375; 2. Sandy Macnebach, Twisters, 73.175; 3. Kevin Mabry, Double Gym Club, 73.175; 4. Gayle Anderson, Ozark Gym Empire, 72.7; 5. Sandra Skiles, American Gym Coaster, 72.650; 6. Marge Foster, New York, 72.550; 7. Mary Lou Young, Nuggets, 72.250; 8. Tern Harris, Spirit Gym Club, 72.05; 9. Bonnie Jordan, Hill's Angels, 71.875; 10. Pam Harrington, NPOC, 71.875. ■



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More European Championships

(Continued from Page 14)

In the absence of Nadia, the gold medal was then awarded to Elena Moiseva with the second and third place awards going to Nelli Kim and Maria Filanova respectively.

The floor exercise event proceeded without Todorova, Ungureanu and Nadia Comăneci, the atmosphere became less exciting and confusion and uncertainty prevailed.

One can enthusiastically report that these European Championships demonstrated that much progress has occurred during the past year by many gymnasts from many federations.

"Mr. Titov stated that he had a 'terrible feeling that they had left' and that he thought 'withdrawing was very unfair' . . ."

Immediately following the competition at 8:30 p.m. there was a press conference at which Mr. Titov, Mrs. Beger, and Mr. Baugartner answered questions from the Press.

The reported reasons for the exit of the Romanian Delegation were:

1. Draw for gymnasts.
2. Scores.
3. Placement of judges, and
4. Technical Regulations.

Mr. Titov stated that he had a "terrible feeling that they had left" and that he thought "withdrawing was very unfair."

Mr. Baugartner stated that the FIG Executive Committee must take up the problem of Romania's departure in regard to future competitions and the award ceremony for the balance beam medal at a later meeting in August. Mr. Titov stated he was against taking the medal away from Nadia.

CONCLUSIONS:

There seems to be a definite and immediate need for some positive action and decision making in order to avoid future problems and misunderstandings among the coaches, delegation leaders, judges, gymnasts, press, and general public. The areas that need either clarification and/or change are:

1. The allowable point spread between the 2 middle scores.
2. The allowable point spread between the average score and the score of the Head Judge.
3. The regulations governing conferences—when mandatory, when possible.
4. Specific regulations for use of the "best note."
5. Procedures of the Jury of Appeal for allowing or disallowing protests.
6. Procedures for conveying all scores of all judges to the official personnel—delegation leaders, coaches, etc.
7. Method of assigning judges to individual events.

More Antibes

(Continued from Page 1)

In general, the competition was well organized and conducted. The equipment was excellent and calibre of competition was very high for the top 12 places. We were very graciously hosted and enjoyed the experience very much.

More MRG Reports

(Continued from Page 12)

lapse between the Trials and the World Championships are not significant this year, but coaches will be requested to attest to the fact that the gymnasts are prepared and in top condition for the event.

Training Session for World Championships

The Training Camp will be held on the East Coast Oct. 3, 6, 7 and departure for Basel will be October 8. Jeanne Sanders of Houston and Linda Chencinski will be asked if they are interested in hosting the training camp. A demonstration by the team can be arranged during the training camp.

World Championship—October 12-16, 1977, Basel, Switzerland

The number of gymnasts for individual competition is limited to three and one substitute. Performance at the Trials will determine if a full contingent will be sent. Other personnel will be selected following the Maple Leaf Meet. Nominations are: Planist, same as Maple Leaf, if successful, Judge, Andrea B. Schmidt; Chief of Delegation, Norma B. Zabka - Annels Hayman; Coach, consideration will be given to those not selected for the Maple Leaf Meet plus additions if necessary.



LOOK FOR . . .

NEXT ISSUE

Reports on Men's Jr. Olympics
Women's Jr. Olympics
Jr. Olympic Training Camp

Brazil Tour Evaluated
Men's National Team—Center Spread
Tentative Program—USGF CON-
GRESS

Frank Conley, "Mr. C"
USGF—A Retrospective



European Championships AA Results

Rank	No.	Name	Nation	Vault	Gymnastics			Floor	All-Around Totals
					Bars	Beam	Hoist		
1.	28	N Comăneci	ROM	9.750	9.800	9.800	9.870	39.220	
2.	4	E Moiseva	URS	9.750	9.800	9.800	9.480	38.830	
3.	9	N Kim	URS	9.750	9.700	9.650	9.750	38.850	
4.	34	T Ungureanu	ROM	9.650	9.650	9.600	9.750	38.700	
5.	16	M Filanova	URS	9.650	9.600	9.550	9.480	38.480	
6.	39	M Eggratt	HUN	9.600	9.600	9.550	9.450	38.400	
7.	37	H Kucharski	BUL	9.500	9.650	9.200	9.600	37.950	
8.	42	I Holikova	TCH	9.550	9.650	9.400	9.500	37.900	
9.	37	S Kraker	BUL	9.650	9.750	9.800	9.450	37.750	
10.	47	M Neusa	ROM	9.500	9.450	9.500	9.400	37.650	
11.	19	D Ovan	HUN	9.600	9.750	9.450	9.250	37.100	
11.	17	D Brydova	TCH	9.450	9.450	9.350	9.400	37.100	
11.	27	A Beger	BFA	9.500	9.500	9.100	9.050	37.100	
14.	46	L Matuszak	POL	9.400	9.450	9.350	9.150	37.000	
15.	30	M Tosi	HUN	9.250	9.450	9.800	9.250	36.950	
16.	49	B A. Eusebio	BUL	9.400	9.600	9.500	9.100	36.800	
17.	38	P Karolyi	BFA	9.300	9.300	9.750	9.300	36.650	
18.	32	V Csomos	TCH	9.200	9.400	9.750	9.200	36.550	
19.	48	B J. Gjerdem	SWE	9.200	9.400	9.150	9.100	36.450	
20.	14	I Ametis	SWE	9.100	9.250	9.450	9.000	36.400	
21.	15	U-Matveit	BFA	9.000	9.200	9.150	9.250	36.200	
21.	36	J Kowaczuk	POL	9.200	9.300	9.400	9.100	36.200	
23.	32	L Bosphorovic	POL	9.350	9.600	9.150	9.150	36.050	

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European Championships

By Jackie Fle
WTC Chairman

Eighty-three women gymnasts, representing 23 nations competed in the Preliminary Optional Competition. The gymnasts were drawn into 2 groups of individuals.

The scoring remained very consistent and did not rise progressively from group to group in relation to the final score of the competition—9.05 for A, Bigs.

The score ranges of the Head Judge and the average score for both competitive groups are as follows:

HEAD JUDGE			AVERAGE SCORE			
Group #1	Group #2	Total	Group #1	Group #2	Total	
9.50 - 10.00	4	3	7	4	3	7
9.00 - 9.49	6	9	15	4	9	13
8.50 - 8.99	14	13	26	30	13	33
8.00 - 8.49	5	6	11	3	7	10
7.50 - 7.99	2	2	4	0	0	0
		63			63	

The Head Judge had a total span of scores from 9.9 to 7.7 in comparison to the average score total span of 9.0 to 8.0 which shows a smaller differentiation between the exercises by the 4 judges. In particular, there should have been a wider range or span of scores for routines evaluated from 9 and below. Judges must evaluate all areas of the competition and execution on even the mediocre exercises and not be hesitant to give the necessary lower marks. The purpose of judging is not only to rank gymnasts, but more important to award the proper mark based upon the perfect score of 10.0. If only rank order is the goal, then the all-around rank become meaningless.

The Mean Score of the Head Judge was 8.80 in comparison to 8.70 for the average score of the 4 judges, an excellent comparison. (Mean Score—Half the scores above and half of the scores below the mid-point of the score span, score No. 32.) In the preliminary there was a fine violation by 3 gymnasts, Nos. 13, 3, and 63, which lowered their average score by 0.10. Gymnast No. 45 also failed to and the exercise with the music, which was not taken by the 4 panel judges. This probably accounts for the 0.3 difference between the Head Judge and the average score. There was a difference of opinion by the judges as to whether a hand touch (0.3) or hand support fall (0.5) occurred for gymnast No. 33, causing a difference again between the average score and that of the Head Judge. No gymnast was either under or over time; consequently, there were no penalties of this nature.

Floor Exercise

In general the level of acrobatic difficulty was very good and showed much overall progress since Montreal. However, in comparison to the difficult compositions performed by the best floor exercise gymnasts, approximately 90% (37) showed a lack of full risk equal to today's high world class standards. These compositions were appropriately deducted.

There were only a few beautiful leap sequences and/or series. Most leaps were performed singularly or else in very "stock" combinations or sequences. Leaps and jumps with turn and exploration as well as new combinations of leaps in series. Gymnast No. 41 was noticeably superior in her performance and amplitude of leaps, jumps, and leaps both as individual elements and in series.

Flies—Optional

The new European Floor Exercise Champion, No. 1 Elena Moschukina—USSR—9.90, performed the most difficult exercise with minor execution errors of 0.1-0.2. Her series included a 1) double somersault backward with a full twist on the second somersault, 2) A round-off, flip-flac, 1/4 twisting somersault backward with a step-out into another round-off, flip-flac, double twisting somersault, and 3) another double somersault backward.

Maria Filanova—USSR—9.90, the silver medal winner, also executed superb difficulties with a unique composition that one could classify as entertainment value to her very small stature and childlike appearance. Her first series included a double somersault backward, the second series a round-off, flip-flac, full twisting somersault backward into a repeat of that same sequence, and the last series showed another double somersault backward as an attempted pike position. Her execution was nearly flawless, her composition is a gymnastic controversy.

The third place gymnast, No. 9, Nellie Kim—USSR—9.88, executed 1) a double somersault backward, 2) a handspring, pike somersault forward with a step-out into a round-off, layout somersault backward, and 3) a round-off flip-flac full twisting somersault backward. She performed a most elegant, mature exercise with only minor execution errors of 0.1-0.3.

Svetl Kravtchuk No. 37, DDR—9.63, performed a double twisting somersault backward in the first and last series and a round-off, flip-flac, Arabian task in the middle series. Her strong execution showed only minor flaws, as did the connections.

Heidi Kankhans, No. 35—DDR—9.60, opened with a double twisting somersault backward, followed with a round-off, side somersault stretched, executed a very nice handspring, cartwheel to the floor, and closed with a round off, the flip, Arabian, round-off, two flip-flacs. The execution showed confidence and strength with only minor errors.

Maria Kuperov, No. 39—HU74—9.46,

My records show 3 connections, namely for Nos. 28, 13, 19, 33, and 36. However, there may have been a few more. In the future I suggest that each head judge should make a note of these exercises for which a connection is called with a notation of the score and adjustments, if they occur.

There were 44 full twisting backward somersaults performed by 19 gymnasts, 3 gymnasts (Nos. 1, 63, 13, 16, 46) performing 2 in their exercises. Four gymnasts, Nos.

23, 15, 33, 12, worked out of full twisting backward somersaults with a flip-flac. Two gymnasts, Nos. 48 and 42, performed whip backward somersaults followed by the flip-flac in a series. Two gymnasts, Nos. 34 & 21, performed 2 very nice layout backward somersaults in succession.

There were 13 double twisting backward somersaults performed by 12 gymnasts, one gymnast (No. 37) performing two in her routine. Five gymnasts, Nos. 34, 14, 8, 9, 43, performed double backward somersaults, with 3 (Nos. 16, 8, 63) performing 2 each. No. 8 performed the first double back with a full twist on the second somersault! No. 43 fell on both double backs in her routine, resulting in the low average of 8.30.

Twenty Arabian and/or side somersaults were executed in varying positions of tuck, pike, and layout. Many series showed combinations of forward, backward, and sideways tumbling elements. This occurred most frequently in the middle or second series. There were also 16 forward somersaults in either tuck, pike, or layout positions, again most commonly seen in the middle series.

13 out of 63 routines, approximately 25% contained less difficulty than a full twisting backward somersault. These routines occasionally received too high an average score.

Many acrobatic elements were combined with elements from floor exercises gymnastics causing a surprise moment or a change in level or pace resulting in many unique and original combinations.

performed a round-off, flip-flac, full twisting somersault backward, a hand-spring, pike somersault forward with a step-out into a round-off layout somersault backward, and closed with a round-off, flip-flac, layout somersault backward, flip-flac. Dancer scores with good amplitude were proficient.

Ingrid Holikova, No. 42—TCH—9.25, performed an elegant routine beginning with a double twisting somersault backward, followed by a round-off, flip-flac, whip back, flip-flac, tuck somersault backward, and finished with a round-off, flip-flac, layout step-out somersault backward. She took several large steps backward on the double full and went out of the floor area, which was not seen or reported by the line judge. Therefore, her score of 9.25 did not reflect a penalty of 0.1 for the line violation which did occur.

There were no falls, time or line violations in the Finals. The absence of Natsa Command and Tondra Ungarova in the Finals of the Floor Exercise was a disappointment, as good and keen competition among the World's best is always most desirable and exciting for the gymnasts, the judges, and spectators alike.

The scoring personnel were most efficient and pleasant to work with. The electronic machines functioned perfectly for reporting of scores and duration of the exercise.

More specific regulations, and in particular closer score ranges governing judging conferences, must be agreed upon by the FIGC. The head judge must know exactly when a conference can be called and what procedures for score adjustment may be used if necessary. These regulations and procedures must become public knowledge in order to raise the professional character of the judging process.

COMPETITORS

1. No. 18, Comaneci, ROM, 10.000; 2. No. 8, Moskova, USSR, 10.000; 3. No. 9, Kim, USSR, 10.000; 4. No. 34 Ungarova, ROM, 10.000; 5. No. 16, Polatova, USSR, 10.000; 6. No. 26, Igumnova, USSR, 10.000; 7. No. 20, Rankova, BDA, 10.000; 8. No. 48, Holikova, TCH, 10.000; 9. No. 93, Kraker, BDA, 10.000; 10. No. 47, Kovacs, ROM, 10.000; 11. No. 10, Chari, HON, 10.000; 12. No. 18, Bytlova, TCH, 10.000; 13. No. 27, Singer, SFA, 10.000; 14. No. 46, Mianovich, Pol, 10.000; 15. No. 28, Toth, HON, 10.000; 16. No. 63, Blumich, BDA, 10.000; 17. No. 88, Karolyi, SFA, 10.000; 18. No. 82, Cerna, TCH, 10.000; 19. No. 41, Gurdin, SUI, 10.000; 20. No. 14, Amara, SUI, 10.000; 21. No. 58, Maxwell, SFA, 10.000; 22. No. 84, Kozmova, POL, 10.000; 23. No. 23, Bogdanovitch, POL, 10.000; 24. No. 24, Comanovitch, HUN, 10.000; 25. No. 38, De Kruicker, BEL, 10.000; 26. No. 30, Bitt, TCA, 10.000; 27. No. 40, Van Ruse, BEL, 10.000; 28. No. 15, Polzer, SFA, 10.000; 29. No. 40, Lamos, GBR, 10.000; 30. No. 7, Chantreva, SUI, 10.000; 31. No. 46, Audin, SFA, 10.000; 32. No. 62, Bokup, SFA, 10.000; 33. No. 1, Harris, ESP, 10.000; 34. No. 51, Johnson, NOR, 10.000; 35. No. 40, Dekker, NOR, 10.000.

(Continued on Next Page)

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More Romanian

(Continued from Page 12)

The final all-around finish was as follows:

1st	Thomas	U.S.A.	53.55
2nd	Geras	Romania	53.45
3rd	Capot	Romania	54.45
4th	Opreacu	Romania	53.45
5th	Szabo	Romania	53.25
6th	Chiriches	Romania	53.20
7th	Kalenan	Poland	52.95
8th	Skokodab	U.S.S.R.	52.90

As is evidenced by the all-around results, the most appeared to be a show-case for the Romanian Team. Kurt had won the all-around by 2 on the first day, but when the results were announced on the third day, the margin was 1. In the floor exercise finals Kurt and Chiriches from Romania both carried 9.4's from the preliminaries, so we knew Kurt had to beat him in the finals. Kurt, again scored a 9.4 and Chiriches scored a 9.3, so we knew Kurt had won. When the results were announced, however, they had tied. When I questioned the tie, I was told, through our interpreter, that Chiriches' score was processed on the spot and changed. There were two Romanians in every group of four judges. Kurt Thomas won all-around, tied for first on floor exercise, and won parallel bars, as well as a second place in pommel horse and a third on rings.

I am quite concerned about the future of international gymnastics if something isn't done about this divisiveness in international judging. Somewhat paradoxically though, I do feel that the U.S.G.F. is making great strides forward by helping our close athletes, both men and women, to become better known in international circles. □

(Continued from Page 27)

24, No. 4, Loughlin, GBR, 14 600; 35, No. 47, Mammertson, SWE, 14 600; 36, No. 34, Slater, GBR, 14 600; 37, No. 2, Bonocchi, ITA, 14 600; 38, No. 48, Houser, HOLL, 14 600; 41, No. 9, Houbau, SWE, 14 550; 41, No. 28, Morita, ESP, 14 550; 41, No. 39, Rana, YUG, 14 550; 44, No. 11, Coorin, ESP, 14 500; 45, No. 15, Gargano, ITA, 14 500; 45, No. 26, Berghardsson, SWE, 14 500; 45, No. 38, Grot, AUT, 14 500; 48, No. 4, Andersen, NOR, 14 250; 48, No. 45, Kottar, AUT, 14 250; 48, No. 53, Palancan, FIN, 14 250; 51, No. 9, Aiba, JPN, 14 00; 51, No. 43, Palan, POR, 14 000; 51, No. 48, Baunde, AUT, 13 950; 54, No. 28, Stahle, POL, 12 900; 55, No. 31, Veltman, FIN, 12 600; 56, No. 37, Hanson, DAN, 11 600; 57, No. 53, Gerd, BEL, 11 400; 58, No. 44, Alvarez, POL, 11 300; 58, No. 54, Pedersen, DAN, 12 800; 59, No. 34, Bort, NOR, 12 850; 61, No. 43, Jacobsen, DAN, 12 850; 62, No. 44, Miranda, POR, 12 150; 63, No. 3, Houbau, LUX, 12 000



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National Gymnastics Judges Association [Men]

This article will be an effort to clarify some of the contradictions arising in the 1975 FIG Code of Points relative to Eagle Giants on the Horizontal Bar.

These are to be considered official interpretations by the NGA Technical Committee: Bill Reichenheim, Director, and Bob Stout, Fred Orlofsky, Bob Fisher, Les Savary, Don Nelson, Jon Colverton and Sam Seigrist, members.

1. Giant swing to stoop in to seat circle forwards

Giant A
Stoop in A
Seat circle A
Or A + A + A



2. Eagle or dislocate grip giant/ B



3. Hop grip change: from Eagle grip to double over grip

Eagle B
Hop A
Or B + A



4. Stoop in, shoot out to Eagle grip and hop to over grip:

Stoop in A
Eagle A
Hop out A
Or A + A + A



5. Hop from Eagle to double under grip

Eagle B
Hop out A
Or B + A

6. Stoop in, shoot out to Eagle, hop to under grip:

Stoop in A
Eagle A
Hop out A
Or B + A



7. Stoop in, one eagle giant, hop out to over grip:

Stoop in A
Eagle giant B
Hop out A
Or C + A



8. Stoop in, one eagle giant, hop to under grip:

Stoop in A
Eagle giant B
Hop out A
Or C + A or B + B



9. Stoop in, two eagle giants, hop out to under grip:

Stoop in A
Eagle giant B
Eagle giant B
Hop out A
Or C + A or B + B



10. Giant swing forward, roll to eagle grip:

Giant swing A
Roll B



11. Roll to Eagle grip, hop out to over grip:

Roll B
Eagle A
Hop out A
Or B + A + A



12. Roll to Eagle grip and one eagle:

Roll B
Eagle B
Or C



13. Blind change to Eagle Grip: (Higgins roll)

Turn B



14. Higgins turn to one eagle:

Higgins B
Eagle B
Or C





1977 UNITED STATES GYMNASTIC FEDERATION CONGRESS

1977 USGF CONGRESS
HYATT REGENCY MEMPHIS HOTEL
OCTOBER 7-8-9, 1977

The USGF is pleased to announce the scheduling of the 1977 USGF CONGRESS for October 7-8-9th, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Memphis, Tennessee. We have secured excellent rates and we are preparing the hotel reservation cards now. The Congress is earlier this year and now is the time to make your travel plans to take part in Memphis.

Opening session is scheduled for 1:00 pm, on Friday October 7th. Several committee meetings will take place on the Thursday evening before, and early Friday morning, however, the first formal session of the USGF Congress (General Assembly) will take place Friday at 1:00 pm as indicated above. Formally, the Congress will then adjourn at 12:00 noon on Sunday the 9th.

This years Congress will provide a new series of round-table discussion groups with coaches involved with our national programs at both the Junior and Elite level. A trend towards instructional sessions will be the feature of the 77 meeting. That coupled with reports on the events of last season and the schedule of events for 1978, to include the 1978 World Championships, the trials prior to that event and selection methods to be used.

To make your reservation, and to receive the special convention rate, send your USGF CONGRESS REGISTRATION FEE of \$25.00 to the U.S.G.F., PO Box 12713, Tucson, Arizona 85732, and we will send you an acknowledgment, and a hotel reservation card which you can complete and send directly to the hotel. The USGF registration fee includes the annual banquet, coffee on Saturday morning and in keeping with the wishes expressed by many in attendance last year, the social event we have planned following the banquet.

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USGF WOMEN'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jackie Fie's report (from Recording Secretary Ruth Ann McBride) continues from the May-June issue.

2. Competition Format

a. Regions

1. The 1st day of competition will be compulsory.
2. The second day of competition will be optional.
3. The third day of competition will be the top 10 Event Finalists in each event.

b. National Level

1. The first day of competition will be compulsory.
2. The second day of competition will be optional.
3. The third day of competition will be the top 20 All Around competing in optional only. Day 1 and 2 scores will be added and averaged. That average will then be added to the All Around Score for day 3 to determine the All Around and Individual event winners.

c. Championships of the USA

1. The 1st day of competition will be compulsory.
2. The 2nd day of competition will be optional.
3. The 3rd day of competition will be the top 20 All Around competitors from the first 2 days of competition. Day 1 and 2 scores will be added and averaged. That average will then be added to the All Around Score for day 3 to determine the All Around and Individual event winners.

3. Elite Regional Training and Competitive Zones

Zone A will include Region I and II + Wyoming
Zone B will include Region IV and V + Wyoming + Kansas

Zone C will include Region III + Louisiana, + Alabama, + Mississippi, + Tennessee

Zone D will include Region VI and VII + N. Carolina, + S. Carolina, + Georgia, + Florida

4. The Elite Competitive Calendar will be as follows:

Meet	Date	To be held in Zone
1st Regional Qualifier	Oct. 22	
1st National	Nov. 5	D
2nd Regional Qualifier	Nov. 19	
2nd National	Dec. 3	C
3rd Regional Qualifier	April 8	
3rd National	April 22	B
USA Championships	May 6	A

5. Equipment Specifications

- a. Wood Covered Fiberglass rails will be used on the Uneven Bars at all Regional and National competitions
- b. A padded beam will be used at all Regional and National competitions
- c. The same boards which were allowed for the 1976-77 season will again be allowed for the 1977-78 season

IX. FIG Code of Points—USGF Medium and Superior Difficulties

- A. Each Region's RTD Board will have the power to decide medium and superior difficulties for scores set in the Code of Points.
- B. These "difficulty" decisions will become official for the Region once they are printed up and distributed by the Regional Chairman's office.
- C. These decisions will be sent to Joanne Pasquale and compiled for final action at the National level, WTC Meetings at the Coaches congress and the USA Championships.
- D. An addition to the USGF Supplement for medium and superior difficulties was distributed by Joanne Pasquale with request for comment by WTC members before becoming official after June 1.

X. OFFICIAL 1978-80 Compulsory Exercise Texts and Comments on Exercise Interpretation were handed out to members of the WTC by Jackie Fie.

XI. FIG WTC Progress Report

- A. Jackie Fie was asked to Chair the Committee for the development of the 1982-84 Compulsory Exercises.
- B. To contribute articles for the FIG bulletin.
- C. To be Head Judge on Floor Exercise at the European Championships.
- D. To propose revisions for the Code of Points.
- E. To assist with the updating of the "Brochure for Judges' Instruction."
- F. To propose corrections in the New Technical Regulations Document.

XII. Miscellaneous

- A. Mrs. Trisler reported that her committee has already started developing the 1980-84 NAGWS/USGF Age Group Compulsory Routines. They should be completed by Sept. 1, 1977.
 1. Donna Strum will be in charge of Balance Beam.
 2. Maria Becos will be in charge of Free Exercises.
 3. Fritz Reiter will be in charge of Uneven Bars.
 4. The Committee will be in charge of Vaulting.
 5. Bill Strum will report which coaches will volunteer to test these new routines.
- B. NAGWS/USGF Practical Exam Report-Proposal to Certification Committee
Internationally rated judges in Groups I and II need not take Class III, II or I practical exams to judge in the age group program. They need only take the written portion pertaining to the compulsory exam at the level which they wish to judge.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Ann McBride,
Recording Secretary

Jackie Fie
WTC Chairman

USA Championships . .

(Continued from Page 5)

bling technique in them, there is a noticeable lack of accomplishment in the dance elements. The full turns are particularly weak; many gymnasts either drop their heads too soon, or hop the turn around, or lose their balance. There were several who did these turns well and were impressive because of the many who were lacking. Another weak area is in the leap sequence where the *coquette* hop appears. Posture is often lacking and the lifted leg is often not extended fully nor high enough. There were four gymnasts who did this part of the exercise well.

Among the portions of the compulsory floor exercise that were improving were the backward roll extension and the backward walkover. Previously the gymnasts were splitting the legs well before attaining a vertical handstand on the backward roll extension. Most gymnasts have corrected this. We are seeing many beautiful straight handstands and then the immediate split, which is, in most cases, a full 180 degree split. The stag open position on the back walkover is also now occurring at the vertical position of the backward walkover, which is a noticeable improvement.

The girls are beginning to get into the area of presentation of the exercise. It is exciting to see them expressing themselves and projecting some personality into their performances.

COMPETITION III

Most impressive in the optional portion of the competition was the increased tumbling difficulty. Some of the tumbling combinations were: Handspring, front somi plus handspring, front somi; Flip floe, back with a double twist; Handspring, front layout with a full twist; cartwheel-side with a full twist; Handspring, front layout, handspring, front tuck. Back alternates ending with tuck or layout, combinations with Arabian fronts into round off, flip floe, tuck or layout. Two gymnasts attempted double twists—at the beginning and again at the end. One young lady did a fine job of hitting both double twists during competition.

Because the tumbling skill and difficulty has increased there is an expectation among the judges that we may see an appreciable increase in skill and difficulty of dance elements and combinations. There was some degree of improvement, but it was not equal to, nor did it approach, in most cases, the tumbling improvement. Several isolated cases were: a double turn; leap sequence incorporating switch leg leap and other difficult leaps; combinations of body waves with turns and leaps. ■

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Roger Council (C) Indiana State

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Donna Turnbull RI ps
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- October 21: Arrive afternoon or evening in Strasbourg and report to the headquarters hotel. Rooms are reserved there for the entire world championships, including breakfast. Hotel is walking distance to the competitions.
- October 30: The world championships have closed on the 29th, and this morning we board trains or buses and head for Zurich, and on arrival board our charter flight and return to Chicago, we arrive in time for most everyone to make connections to their home city that same day or night.

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